

Wycombe close gap

**Wycombe Wanderers 2,
Hayes 2.**

HAYES ACHIEVED the distinction of taking a point from Loakes Park during last week's visit to the home of the Rothman's Isthmian League champions. However, on the night this was not enough, Hayes had the chance to collect all three.

Although they dominated play for long periods, Wycombe looked quite incapable of scoring, writes Paul Harrington.

And while they were making

a mess of things at Hayes' end of the park, the visitors were cashing in on some breakaways.

Tommy James volleyed in a great opening goal from Peter Twigg's fine pass from the left. Early in the second half Pat Hatt made it 2-0 with an angled drive.

And by now it should have been 4-0 as twice Twigg carved glorious openings only fail with his shooting.

Instead, Wycombe forced their way back in into the game in the last 15 minutes. Two goals in four minutes finally got the better of a gallant Hayes defence and the overworked Graham Cracknell.

He had no chance with substitute Tony Horseman's fierce shot; he had even less when Twigg ran the ball into his own net trying to give his defence some cover.

Otherwise, Cracknell was quite superb. Two saves, another from one of his own defenders, were backbreaking dives to a post.

The turning point was the loss of Alan Carrington with concussion. John O'Sullivan came on as substitute but Hayes lost their momentum and eventually their two-goal lead.

Hayes: Cracknell; Palfrey, Pearce, Tiernan, Harris; James, Ross, Carrington (O'Sullivan); Hatt, Butler, Twigg.